

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 070788
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA 4451

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FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM LA PAZ DATED MARCH 16, 1978
SENT SECSTATE WASHDC IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

UNCLAS LA PAZ 2179

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, BL

SUBJECT: REPORTED USG SALES OF BISMUTH, ANTIMONY AND SILVER

1. LA PAZ NEWSPAPER PRESENCIA OF MARCH 15 CARRIES FRONT PAGE
FEATURE ARTICLE REPORTING SUBJECT SALES. THE REPORT IS BASED ON
AN ARTICLE IN "METAL BULLETIN." ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE THE
GSA WILL SELL THE FOLLOWING QUANTITIES OF METALS IN 1978 AND
1979: 2,500 SHORT TONS OF ANTIMONY, 500,000 POUNDS OF BISMUTH AND
52.5 MILLION TROY OUNCES OF SILVER.

2. PRESENCIA REPORTED THE NEGATIVE REACTIONS OF THE MINING
SECTOR WHICH CENTERED ON THE FACT THAT A NUMBER OF BISMUTH AND
ANTIMONY MINES HAD ALREADY CLOSED DUE TO LOW INTERNATIONAL
PRICE QUOTATIONS. THE ARTICLE FEARED EVEN MORE SERIOUS DAMAGE
TO THE MINING INDUSTRY IF THE GSA SOLD EXCESS STOCKS OF
THESE MINERALS.

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3. IN VIEW OF THE VERY LOW PRICE QUOTATIONS ON THE INTERNATIONAL
MARKETS THE EMBASSY DOUBTS THAT GSA PLANS TO SELL ANTIMONY AND
BISMUTH HOWEVER WE WOULD APPRECIATED MORE DETAILED AND
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ON GSA SALES PROGRAMS IN THESE
AREAS.
BOEKER UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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